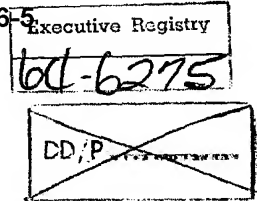


**CONFIDENTIAL**

10 September 1964

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Action by Representative Michael A. Feighan on the  
Subject of the Ransoming of Jewish Prisoners from  
Rumania

1. On this date, I received a call from Mr. James Cline, of the House Immigration Subcommittee staff, concerning prior conversations with him on the subject of monies paid for the release of Jewish prisoners from Rumanian jails. At the request of [redacted] of CI Staff, I had previously queried Mr. Cline informally as to the nature of the testimony given before the Subcommittee on this subject and whether or not there was any intention to release it.

2. Mr. Cline informed me that there was some discussion of this subject in testimony of Mr. Abba P. Schwartz, of State, before the Subcommittee but that the matter was gone into in greater detail during the testimony by a Mr. Briggs, of the Pittsburgh office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. At this executive session hearing, the Chairman, Representative Feighan, excused Walter Besterman, Staff Counsel, and Mr. Cline from the hearing. Neither of these staff members have any knowledge of the specific testimony given. (Mr. Feighan even went to the extreme of having the shorthand reporter return the transcript to his private office rather than to the Subcommittee staff.) According to Mr. Cline, Mr. Feighan wants to release the executive session testimony on this subject but Representative Emanuel Celler, Chairman of the full Judiciary Committee, has refused to grant his permission.

3. Mr. Cline called this morning to alert us to the fact that notwithstanding Mr. Celler's position, Mr. Feighan has threatened to take the matter to the floor of the House today. Mr. Cline has alerted us to this in the event we wished to discuss the matter with the White House with a view to obtaining White House pressure on Mr. Feighan

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25X1 not to discuss this matter. (Mr. Feighan apparently received an impression that U.S. Government funds were involved in these transactions and the Subcommittee staff has no idea whether this notion has been dissipated.) After discussing this with Mr. Warner, Mr. Houston and [redacted] (who has notified Mr. Karamessines), I advised Mr. Cline that while we appreciated knowing of Mr. Feighan's intention, and would prefer that this matter not be discussed publicly, our interest was not of such a nature as to warrant our taking initiative with the White House. Mr. Cline said he understood. He also indicated that he had alerted the State Department to this and would probably talk with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

4. Mr. Houston has alerted Mr. Abba Schwartz and we have attempted to reach Immigration without success. Mr. Schwartz called back to confirm that Mr. Feighan is taking the floor on this today and suggesting that Mr. Houston alert Acting Attorney General Katzenbach on this matter. Mr. Katzenbach has been alerted but does not feel there is much that can be done. Since the Agency has no involvement in this, all parties have been advised that this Agency is not taking any action with the White House.

[redacted]

Assistant Legislative Counsel

25X1

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GEORGE L. CARY, JR.  
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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Orig & Mr. Elder

- 1 - Leg. Counsel subject
- 1 - Leg. Counsel chrono
- 1 - Mr. Millett

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TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	Mr. Elder	<i>Sept 10</i>	<i>briefed</i>
2			
3			<i>WZ</i>
4			
5			
6			
	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DIRECT REPLY</b>	<b>PREPARE REPLY</b>
	<b>APPROVAL</b>	<b>DISPATCH</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
	<b>COMMENT</b>	<b>FILE</b>	<b>RETURN</b>
	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>
<b>Remarks:</b> Attached is a Memo for the Record on conversations concerning an expressed intention on the part of Representative Feighan to disclose executive session testimony given on the ransoming of Jewish prisoners from Rumania. Mr. Feighan somehow obtained the impression some time ago that U. S. Government funds were involved in this and no one can predict precisely what the nature of his disclosure will be. We have advised Mr. Kirkpatrick and Mr. Karamessines, have alerted Mr. Schwartz and, at Schwartz's suggestion, have alerted the Acting Attorney General. We are also trying to reach the Immigration and Naturalization Service.			
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<input type="checkbox"/>		COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE	RETURN	
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